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Tisdalle Looks Ahead

Four-Lane Road Urged for Pat Bay

Traffic Jams Feared

The Patricia Bay Highway was last night envisaged as the main arterial highway between the two largest cities in British Columbia.

John Tisdalle (SC—Saanich) told the legislature he pictures some terrible traffic jams there when the two government ferries go into operation between Saanich Peninsula and the mainland.

FOUR-LANE BID

He called on Minister of Highways P. A. Gaglardi to "decide now on a four-lane highway, at least past Royal Oak, and later a two-lane highway alongside the boulevard so we can have a two-way highway."

He also called for commercial areas to be established alongside the highway and a policy of establishing parallel trade streets, particularly around Elk Lake.

HUGE INFLUX

"I envisage a tremendous influx of people to Saanich, some of whom will even commute by the ferries if the schedules are frequent enough," he said.

He said it was wrong to ever "let our highways become streets," and urged the commercial areas be established and businesses established on the parallel trade streets he suggested.

LOOK URGED

Mr. Tisdalle asked Trade and Industry Minister Bonner and Agriculture Minister Newton Steacey to "take a good look and see that industry will not suffer" if Pacific Western Airlines take over the Victoria-Vancouver flights from TCA.

He warned that Vancouver Island's flower industry could suffer a fatal setback if PWA did not provide adequate service at the same cost as TCA for through shipments.

HAVING TROUBLE

He said he had been having trouble getting a definite commitment on extension of runways at Patricia Bay and acknowledged Highways Minister Gaglardi must be having trouble deciding on relocation of the highway.

"It seems doubtful to me the lengthening of the runways will ever take place at all," Mr. Tisdalle said.

"We certainly can't make any arrangement with a government (federal) which refuses to state a policy."

BIGGER GRANT

He asked Premier Bennett as minister of finance to increase the home owners' grants to $35 from $28, "if not this year, next year."

Mr. Tisdalle urged the government to choose one giant Douglas fir in Cathedral Grove and place on it a plaque reading: "Hon. Gordon McGregor Sloan, whose stature exceeded this tree which bears his name."

"I am sure a smile of appreciation would flit upon his face, if he could see it," Mr. Tisdalle said.

He asked Works Minister Chant to build a public buildings in Saanich and suggested a public health centre.

Sold Down River?

City council "sold taxpayers down the river" with its plans for building an off-street parking plan that really is the responsibility of private businessmen, J. Donald Smith, a Victoria MLA, charged last night.

"It should be developed as the one at London, Ont.," he told 125 persons at a meeting sponsored by Victoria Ratepayers' Education Association.

He said London businessmen paid $8,000 for plans, subscribed $400,000 and financed the rest of a $1,400,000 fund to build a five-storey ramp-style parking building.

He said the building contained a farmers' market and 21 stores on the main floor, with room for 1,000 cars to park on four floors above.

Mr. Smith said the city "benefits" because it receives $10,000 a year rent for the property and will receive title to the building when the mortgage is paid off in 20 years.

"I have found the answer for the city council," said Mr. Smith after the meeting. "I hope they will now give the people a second chance to vote on the issue."

BEA SANDERS

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Seen In Passing

Bea Sanders doing what all nurses do when they get off duty — picking up her mail. (She is a third-year student nurse at Royal Jubilee Hospital and graduates June 13. She is interested in all types of sports and she is taking a typing course at night school). . . . **Lorna Leyland** listening to Dixieland records on a hi-fi. . . . **Allan Kleinman** talking about coins, of course. . . . **Alex Young** talking about politics—of course.

Saanich Building Again a Record

Perennial front-runner Saanich shows no signs of faltering in the Greater Victoria building race.

The mushrooming municipality set a January record last month with 87 permits worth $839,100.

Of these, 56 were for dwellings to the value of $644,800.

In January last year, Saanich recorded 82 permits ($750,950) and 45 dwellings ($505,500).

Victoria issued 478 permits during the month to the value of $785,429. There were more permits (548) last year, but the value was less ($588,074).

The city total included $106,000 for 26 units of senior citizens' housing on Styles Street, already under construction. Also included was a $33,940 alteration job for the Bay Street Armory.

Fourteen permits, valued at $82,500, were taken out in Esquimalt, a boost over January, 1958, which showed 10 permits worth $60,620.

Oak Bay figures were unavailable.

Too-Generous Donor Gets Surplus Back

A distressed old lady pensioner phoned Vic-Van Isle Kinsmen yesterday and tearfully explained that she had mistakenly given a Marching Mother a $5 bill Saturday night — practically all the money she had.

"I didn't have my glasses on and I thought it was a $1 bill," she said. "Could I please have $4 back?"

Grateful Kinsmen quickly and gladly obliged. Left before them on the "counting house" table at 616 View (EV 5-9749) was $34,982.06.

"And it's still trickling in from the people who were missed during Saturday night's one-hour blitz," a spokesman said yesterday.

"We expect that the final total will be about $37,000," he said. Last year's total was $41,165.

Persons who were missed Saturday night are invited to phone or call at campaign headquarters.

Annual Kinsmen drive is in aid of polio-stricken and other handicapped children.

Axe in hand, fireman Eric Simmons stands in the charred ruins of a third-floor apartment at 2550 Vancouver yesterday. A dozen adults and children escaped the burning building early in the morning. Firemen and police helped carry children out and the fast-working firefighters succeeded in confining the blaze to the third floor.—(Colonist photo.)

Forlorn symbol of a burned-out family is this high chair, in the ruins of a kitchen at 422 Parry. Mr. and Mrs. Donald McQueen lost all their possessions in blaze, and their children Donnie, 2, and Kim, 3, were confined to St. Joseph's Hospital suffering from burns sustained in the Sunday morning blaze.—(Colonist photo.)

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Only Luck Prevented Loss of Life

Victorians Cheat Death in Two Fires

Two Tots, Mother Burned, Family Left Destitute

A Victoria family yesterday was still struggling to realize the full cost of a fire which Sunday morning left three of its members suffering from burns—two still in hospital—and all of them without belongings.

Everything they owned was destroyed or damaged by the blaze which broke out in their rented home, 422 Parry, about 9 a.m. Sunday.

Two-year-old Donald McQueen is in "fairly good" condition at St. Joseph's Hospital, with second-degree burns to the back, chest, arms and face.

In the same hospital his sister Kim, 3, is in "fair" condition with first and second-degree burns to arms and knees.

ARM BURNS, SHOCK

Their mother, Mrs. Doreen McQueen, 28, was treated for a slight arm burn and shock, and discharged.

Youngest McQueen child, 15-month-old Bambi, was rescued unhurt from the house, while five-year-old Heather was spending the night with her grandmother.

The father, Donald McQueen, had left home for his first day's work since before Christmas, about an hour before the fire broke out. He has only worked three days in three months, his family said yesterday.

NEIGHBOR CREDITED

Mrs. McQueen and a neighbor, Leon Notte, 28, of 416 Parry, are credited with saving the children's lives.

The three youngsters were asleep in the ground-floor front bedroom of the house, which had a single-unit heater while a double heater served the living room behind.

Fire Chief James Bayliss yesterday blamed the fire on faulty installation of the gas heaters, which were too close to the woodwork.

Apparently woodwork and wallpaper caught fire, and when Mrs. McQueen first noticed it, the bedroom was circled with flame. She grabbed Kim and Bambi and took them outdoors, and as she tried to go back for Donnie her screams drew the attention of Mr. Notte.

HURRIED TO HELP

He hurried over to help.

"I could hear the little boy crying," he said, "so I smashed the front windows to get him. He was on the floor behind the bed, and I had to pull it away.

"I managed to get him over to the window. He was pretty badly burned. I just got a blister on my hand and a red forehead."

City police and another neighbor, William Daly, of 433 Parry, took the injured to hospital.

GRANDMOTHER'S HOME

Little Bambi, meanwhile, was taken to the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Mabel McDermott, farther along the block at 402 Parry. There she and Heather were being cared for yesterday by Mrs. McQueen's sister, Mrs. W. H. Jones, who had arrived in Victoria from Calgary only Saturday night to visit her mother, also under doctor's care.

Ground floor of the Parry Street house was burned out, and smoke damage was heavy on the upper floor.

* * *

LEON NOTTE

. . . heard crying

* * *

Cash, Food Needed By Family

Donations of cash and food, clothing and furniture for the McQueen family, whose belongings were lost in a fire Sunday, will be handled by the James Bay Community Club.

Harold Ketchell, club president, said his group was starting the fund with its own $50 donation.

Donations may be sent or taken to the Ketchell home at 224 Dallas, EV 2-2333.

Blood Donor Clinic Slated This Week

Blood donor clinic will be held at Red Cross House, 1046 Fort Street, today and Wednesday. Hours are from 1.30 to 4.30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

The clinic will move to Royal Roads Thursday.

Clouds of Acrid Smoke Hamper Rescue Escape

Only great good fortune prevented possible loss of life in a fire which swept through an apartment building at 2550 Vancouver early yesterday.

As it was, almost a dozen adults and children escaped or were helped to safety in their night clothes.

Alarm was turned in at 4.12 a.m., and within minutes a ladder truck and four pumpers were on the scene. About 2,000 feet of hose were laid out to fight the blaze.

TOP-FLOOR SUITES

Flames broke out, from a cause not yet determined, in one of the top-floor suites of the old block, which runs between Vancouver and Fifth north of Bay.

The fact that most of the fire was contained on the top floor made possible escape of the occupants. City firemen and police helped carry children, wrapped in blankets, from the burning structure to the homes of neighbors who sheltered the burned-out families for the rest of the night.

As it was, escapes and rescues had to be effected through billowing clouds of thick, acrid smoke. All apartments in the building were damaged either by flames or smoke or water.

FOUR CHILDREN

Among those helped to safety were a Mrs. Hunt and her four small children; T. S. Medler, building owner; Mr. and Mrs. West from Suite 5, and Jack Laverne Heath.

More fortunate was the family of Keith Starling.

Mr. Starling, who with his family occupied a top-floor apartment, was called to work night-shift Sunday for a city taxi firm. Because his wife is expecting her third child, he drove her and the other two children to the home of his brother, L. J. Starling, 864 Colville, to spend the night.

If this had not been the case, the family might well have been trapped by the flames.

Today they, and other occupants of the building, are looking for new homes.

Sunday, Mrs. Starling put out a wash including many of her children's clothing, and yesterday her sister-in-law was able to recover these from the line where they still hung.

Fire Chief James Bayliss said yesterday the building itself was insured, but he did not know about the contents. Cause of the fire is still under investigation, he said.

Let Pupils See Queen In Arena

Suggestion that the Memorial Arena be used to allow a maximum number of school children and elderly people to see the Queen during Her Majesty's visit this summer was sent to city council yesterday by Frank Mulliner, arena commission chairman.

Mr. Mulliner suggested the arena could seat about 8,000 children, "up to grade 5 or 6," as well as some elderly people who would be unable to stand for a long time in the streets.

$20 Will Buy Food for a Balanced Diet for a Month

By TED SHACKLEFORD

A pensioner can buy sufficient food to provide a balanced diet over a month for less than $20 . . . and here's the proof.

Mrs. A. Helen Findlay, who lives in the Fairfield district, telephone EV 4-6278, is a pensioner who prepared a food list two years ago for the assistance of fellow pensioners.

It was published at the time by the Silver Threads Service, and the total was $19.94. Yesterday, with Mrs. Findlay's help I brought the prices up to date . . . and the new total is $19.18! Here it is:

Nine quarts of milk, $2.16; nine loaves of bread, $1.63; one-half pound of tea, 70 cents; one pound of coffee, 79 cents; two pounds of butter, $1.41; four-pound tin of jam, 69 cents; cereals, 42 cents; two pounds of sugar, 23 cents; 18 eggs, 75 cents; fruit and fruit juice, $2; 10 pounds of potatoes, 59 cents; vegetables, fresh or frozen, $2; staples (salt, pepper, flour and salt), $1.30; meat and fish, $5.50.

The $5.50 meat budget breaks down this way:

Two pounds of minced steak, 90 cents; two waffle steaks, 44 cents; one pound of lean stewing beef, 65 cents; two lamb chops, 45 cents; two lean lamb chops (for hot pot), 45 cents; one pound of pork sausages, 49 cents; one pound of beef sausage, 39 cents; one-half pound of bacon, 37 cents; one tin of corned beef, 37 cents.

The budget for meat totals only $4.51, less than the $5.50 allowed for it, but the extra can be used to either buy more meat or fish or to cover price fluctuations throughout the list. Or it can simply be saved.

Most of the prices quoted are higher than can be found by shopping around.

Mrs. Findlay allows 34 meat meals from her budget—eight from the minced steak, two from the waffle steaks, four from the stewing beef, two from the lamb chops, two from the hot pot, four from the pork sausage, four from the beef sausage, four from the bacon and four from the corned beef.

"This can be followed rigidly or it can be used simply as a guide, and altered as a person wants to," Mrs. Findlay said yesterday.

"Before I get my cheque I make out a list of all the items I will want for the month, that can be kept without spoiling, and I buy them all together. The food which will not keep through the month I buy as I need it."

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

Sunday night I spoiled my record and accepted food—one and one-half slices of buttered toast. I was at a friend's home, watching television and I had a choice of sitting there eating or sitting there watching the others eat. I guess I'm a conformist deep down.

There seems a lot of misplaced sympathy over what I am eating and how I am living.

I don't want or need any sympathy or any help, myself—I can revert to steaks, chicken dinners and so on if I want to. It is the true pensioner who needs help—they can't stop.

Sunday morning I got up late and had two cups of tea and a bowl of puffed wheat for breakfast. I find the easiest way to deal with the puffed wheat is to put powdered milk in the bowl, pour boiling water over that and then drop the puffed wheat into it.

The wheat shrinks in the hot milk and I keep adding puffed wheat until the bowl is full. With sugar on top it is quite palatable.

Lunch was some of the brisket fried gently with potatoes and onions, plus some soup, and two more cups of tea.

Dinner was more soup with three slices of toast, two with margarine only and the third with both margarine and marmalade. Later in the evening, of course, I succumbed to the temptation of one and one-half slices of toast.

Yesterday I breakfasted on hot milk and unpuffed wheat, two slices of toast and two more cups of tea. For lunch I polished off the brisket, again fried with potatoes, soup and two cups of tea.

The last of the soup went for dinner, followed by two beef sausages, onions, potatoes and stewed celery, and two cups of tea.

I have spent a further 85 cents — a packet of cigaret papers (five cents), two beef sausages (15 cents), four strips of bacon (18 cents), a box of shredded wheat (22 cents), and six medium eggs (25 cents). My total expenditure to date is $31.69 and I have $19.31 left.

I have found, and no doubt many single pensioners have also found, that there seems a dearth of cheap, easy-to-prepare recipes for meals suitable for one person.

If readers know of any such recipes, bearing in mind that they must be able to be cooked on a hotplate, I'd like to know them. And I'll publish them if enough are sent in. No prizes, no rewards other than the reward of knowing the pensioners have been helped.